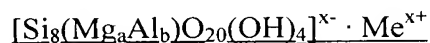


# IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

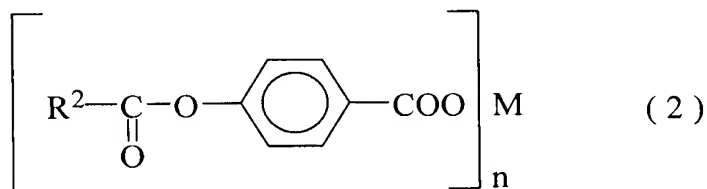
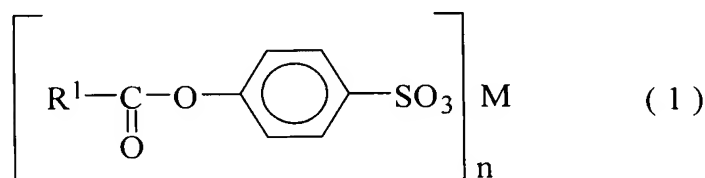
Claim 1. (currently amended) A softening detergent composition comprising:

- (a) 1 to 30% by mass of a clay mineral ~~of montmorillonite~~ represented by formula (3):



wherein each of a, b and x satisfies  $0 < a \leq 6$ ,  $0 < b \leq 4$ ,  $x=12-2a-3b$ , and Me is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Na, K, Li,  $\text{Ca}^{1/2}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{1/2}$  and  $\text{NH}_4$ ;

- (b) 0.5 to 20% by mass of a sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct;  
(c) 0.1 to 20% by mass of a compound represented by the following general formula (1)  
or (2):



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is an alkyl group having 4 to 13 carbon atoms;  $\text{R}^2$  is an alkyl group having 5 to 13 carbon atoms; M is a hydrogen atom, or an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, with proviso that when M is an alkaline earth metal atom, n is 2, and that when M is an alkali metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, n is 1,  
or a combination of both;

(d) 0.4 to 20% by mass of a salt of a fatty carboxylic acid;  
a component corresponding to a surfactant other than component (d) which comprises 35-70  
% by mass of an alkylbenzenesulfonate; and  
10 to 60% by mass of a component corresponding to a surfactant as prescribed in  
JIS K 3362:1998,

wherein a mass ratio of the component (b) to the component (c) [component  
(b)/component (c)] is from 3/4 to 20/1.

2. (original) The softening detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the  
amount of the component (b) is from 1.5 to 20% by mass, the amount of the component (c) is  
from 1.5 to 20% by mass, and the mass ratio of the component (b) to the component (c) is  
from 3/4 to 7/1.

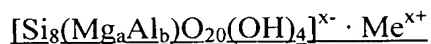
3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A softening washing method of a fibrous manufactured  
article, comprising the step of washing an article to be washed with the softening detergent  
composition of any one of claims 1 to 2.

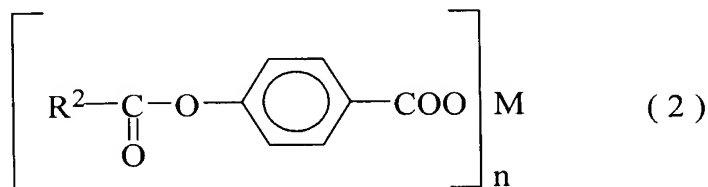
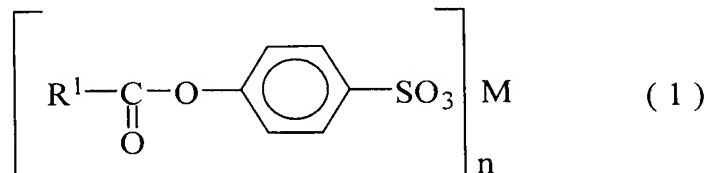
6. (currently amended) A method of enhancing softening effect of a clay mineral  
against a fibrous manufactured article, comprising the step of applying to the fibrous  
manufactured article,

(a) a clay mineral ~~of montmorillonite~~ represented by formula (3):



wherein each of a, b and x satisfies  $0 < a \leq 6$ ,  $0 < b \leq 4$ ,  $x=12-2a-3b$ , and Me is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Na, K, Li,  $\text{Ca}^{1/2}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{1/2}$  and  $\text{NH}_4$ ;

- (b) a sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct; and  
(c) a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or (2):



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is an alkyl group having 4 to 13 carbon atoms;  $\text{R}^2$  is an alkyl group having 5 to 13 carbon atoms; M is a hydrogen atom, or an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, with proviso that when M is an alkaline earth metal atom, n is 2, and that when M is an alkali metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, n is 1,  
or a combination of both;

- (d) a salt of a fatty carboxylic acid; and

a component corresponding to a surfactant other than component (d) which comprises 35-70 % by mass of an alkylbenzenesulfonate,  
in mass ratios satisfying:

the component (b)/the component (c) = 3/4 to 20/1, and

the component (a)/the component (c) = 35/1 to 1/5.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the component (a), the component (b) and the component (c) are applied to the fibrous manufactured article in mass ratios satisfying the component (b)/the component (c) = 3/4 to 7/1, and the component (a)/the component (c) = 30/1 to 1/5.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the components (a), the component (b), the component (c) and the component (d) are applied to the fibrous manufactured article in mass ratios satisfying the component (b)/the component (c) = 20/1 to 1/1, the component (a)/the component (c) = 35/1 to 1/5, and the component (a)/the component (d) = 20/1 to 1/5.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct is present in an amount of 2 to 16% by mass.

11. (previously presented) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct is present in an amount of 3.5 to 8% by mass.

12. (currently amended) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said fatty carboxylic acid is present in an amount of 2.5 to 8% by mass.

13. (previously presented) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct is a coated granule.

14. (previously presented) The softening detergent composition of claim 13, wherein said coated granule is coated with at least one coating selected from the group consisting of boric acids, borates, sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfates, magnesium silicate, magnesium chloride, magnesium oxide, sodium silicate, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and hydroxypropyl cellulose.

15. (previously presented) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, further comprising water in an amount of 0.1 to 10 % by mass.